

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. By this Amendment, passages of the specification are amended and claims 1, 13, 16-18, 19, 21 and 22 are amended. Reexamination is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Misra (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,146). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Misra does not disclose or suggest distribution information includes at least a signer identifier that is a receiver identifier of last information stored in the data carrier, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 18 and 20-27.

Misra discloses at col. 2, lines 32-61, that a license generator at a license clearinghouse creates a license pack containing a set of one or more individual software licenses. The license generator assigns a unique license pack ID to the license pack. The license generator also digitally signs the license pack and encrypts with the license service public key. A separate license server verifies the license generator's digital signature on the license pack and if valid, installs the license pack with subsequent distribution of licenses.

Nowhere does Misra disclose or suggest the above noted features of the independent claims. Therefore, independent claims 1, 18 and 20-27 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-17 and 19 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

JAO:YSC/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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